



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

Press Release

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Released: December 16, 2009

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USDA To Conduct January Cattle Survey

The U.S. Department of Agriculture will contact nearly 50,000 cattle operations this January to participate in the Cattle Survey. Operators nationwide will be asked to provide data on current industry conditions including cattle inventories and calf production.

"The January Cattle Survey provides Idaho producers the opportunity to serve as the frontline source of information on U.S. cattle production," said Vince Matthews, Director of the Idaho Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). "In Idaho, we will contact approximately 1,150 operations in order to measure trends in beef and dairy cattle inventories, calf crop and cattle operations.

"The information gathered will help producers make informed marketing decisions and plan for herd expansion or reduction," he explained. "It also helps packers and government evaluate expected slaughter volume for future months and determine potential supplies for export," Matthews said.

To make it as easy as possible for producers to participate, NASS offers the option of responding via telephone, mail, online, or personal interview with a local NASS representative. Responses will be compiled and published in NASS's biannual Cattle report, on January 29, 2010. The report will provide national-level estimates of total inventory, beef cows, milk cows, bulls, replacement heifers, other heifers, steers, calves and number of calves born during the previous year.

As with all NASS surveys, information provided by respondents is confidential by law. NASS safeguards the privacy of all survey responses and publishes only state- and national-level data, ensuring that no individual operation or producer can be identified. All reports are available on the NASS web site: www.nass.usda.gov.

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